The soil of the taiga is similar to that of the tundra's. Because of the harsh temperatures during the winter, some parts of the taiga have permafrost, or a permanently frozen layer of soil. Water from precipitation and melting snow in warmer seasons cannot seep through the permafrost, so the taiga ground remains soft and damp in some parts. Other areas that do not have permafrost (like the Canadian Shield in North America) have a layer of hard rock that remains close to the surface. Like permafrost, this dense rock prevents water from escaping the surface and, therefore, leaves the soil soggy in the spring and summer seasons.



The land surface of the taiga was covered with ice until about ten thousand years ago when the glaciers of the last Ice Age ended. As they melted back, they left the land surface with depressions that have since become small lakes and bogs. Soils have only had a relatively short amount of time to form since the glaciers retreated and so are often thin and they can be nutrient poor because of the cold climate too.

But now the taiga is covered in trees and is the largest biome. It raps around the upper parts of Alaska and Canada.

